activities. To rehabilitate child labourers, Commissioner for Public Instruction has issued instructions for enrolment of all out of school children in schools. Special schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are also being opened in these areas, wherever necesary. The Enforcement officers have been instructed to take stringent action against employers engaging child labour in mines & queries.

Creation of employment opportunities

†1957. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the data regarding creation of employment opportunities in the country after mid-term review of the Tenth Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the annual increase rate as regards creation of more employment opportunities during the last few years of the Tenth Five-Year Plan; and

(c) whether the target of providing employment on the basis of such increase would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): *(a) to (c) As per estimates given in Mid Term Appraisal* (MTA) document, employment opportunities on CDS basis for first three years of Tenth Plan have been estimated at 349.89 million in 2002-03, 356.16 million in 2003-04 and 362.64 million in 2004-05. The above assessment is based on growth in output and the observed elasticities in the recent past.

Rate of interest on EPF accumulation

1958. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Board has recommended 9.5 per cent rate of interest in EPF accumulation for the year 2004-05; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of subscribers to be benefited out of it?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has also ratified an interest rate of 9.5% for the year 2004-05 to be credited to the accounts of the members of the Employees' Provident Fund.

(b) All members of the Employees' Provident Fund, i.e. 400.92 lakh subscribers as on 31.03.2004, will be benefited.

Grant to the parents of child labourers

†1959. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that acute poverty compels parents to send their child to work as a labourer;

(b) whether Government propose to provide monthly grant to the parents of child labourers in order to ensure that they do not sent their child to work; and

(c) if so, the amount per month proposed to be provided and the amount to be spent annually on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to rehabilitate the working children and mainstreaming them into formal system of education, Government is implementing National Child Labour Project Scheme (NCLP) since 1988. Under the said Scheme, apart from providing the working children with free educational & vocational training & material, nutrition, health care, etc. a monthly stipend of Rs. 100/- is also deposited in the account of every child enrolled in special schools. The consolidated amount of stipend is disbursed to the children at the time of their main streaming into formal system of education. The amount spent on the NCLP Scheme during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 was Rs. 6513.77 lakh, Rs. 6783.00 lakh and Rs. 9315.80 lakh respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.